

App. No.: 10/743,856
Reply to Office Action of April 8, 2005
Response filed on May 6, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated April 8, 2005, Applicants have elected the claims of Group III, amended the claims, and added new claims as discussed in detail below.

Amendments to the Specification

Paragraphs [0036], [0050], [0096] and [0107] - [0109] have been amended to correct typographical errors. Paragraph [0076] has been amended to include a publication number that was not available at the time the application was filed. No new matter has been added.

Status of the Claims

Claims 18-42 have been canceled. Independent claim 1 is currently amended. Claims 2-17 remain as originally filed. New claims 43-67 are added. Claims 1-17 and 43-67 are now pending.

Amendments to the Claims:

In an Office Action mailed on April 8, 2005, the Examiner restricted Applicants' claims as drawn to independent and distinct inventions. Specifically, the Examiner restricted the claims into three groups, namely Group I consisting of claims 7-17 and 27-42; Group II consisting of claims 18-26; and Group III consisting of claims 1-6. In response, Applicants hereby formally elect Group III *with traverse*.

Since claims 7 and 11 both depend from elected Claim 1, which is assigned to Group III, it is not appropriate to assign dependent claims 7-17 to another group, as that has the effect of separating them from their independent parent claim. Hence, Applicants assert that Claims 7-17 should be rejoined into Group III and have retained these claims as pending claims in the present Response.

In addition, Applicants have cancelled non-elected claims 18-42 and added new claims 43-67, which depend from elected independent claim 1, to capture embodiments to which Applicants are entitled and which are present in the originally filed specification as well as some of the non-elected claims 18-42. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute non-elected claims of Group I (a method of making a catalyst) and Group II (a Fischer-Tropsch catalyst) in a later divisional application.

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Conclusion

Applicants believe they have addressed the issues raised in the office action. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, or otherwise feels it would be advantageous, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (713) 238-8043.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcella D. Watkins
Reg. No. 36,962
Conley, Rose P.C.
P. O. Box 3267
Houston, Texas 77253-3267
(713) 238-8000
ATTORNEY/AGENT FOR APPLICANT